

21 August 1978

USSR
OLC #78-2504/1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Representative Charles E. Grassley
from Iowa.

1. On 16 August [redacted], ERC/OGCR, and I briefed Congressman Grassley, a member of the House Agriculture Committee about CIA forecasts of foreign crop production and potential demand for US grain exports. The briefing was in response to a written request from Congressman Grassley to the DCI (attached). We were accompanied by a representative from the Legislative Council [redacted] and Congressional Support Staff [redacted]

2. Congressman Grassley was keenly interested in a detailed explanation of the methodology used to estimate the Soviet grain crop. [redacted]

[redacted] He also was interested in availability and timeliness of information on Soviet grain imports from US traders. I provided a rundown on our current estimates of world grain trade for 1978/79--including likely Soviet import needs--and export supplies available from our competitors. A one hour appointment was stretched into 2 hours by questions from the Congressman.

3. None of the Congressman's staff was present; the highest level of information used in our discussion was Secret/NOFORN. We reminded Congressman Grassley twice our information was classified and sensitive sources were used. This became necessary when he mentioned the possibility of telling farm groups, etc. [redacted]

4. I feel that it would be more effective, less time consuming for us, and possibly less chance of security leaks if the House Agriculture Committee as a whole was briefed periodically rather than individual members. Briefing Congressman Grassley on World and Soviet grain developments could open "Pandora's Box" if other Congressmen become aware and request similar treatment.

[redacted]
Senior Research Analyst
International Materials Division

MORI/CDF

Attachment:

As stated